

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, lines 1 to 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

"TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT I/WE, Giuseppe Claudio VISCOMI, Leone Gabriele ROTINI, Lorenzo MORELLI, Patrizio FERRARI and Maria Rosaria PANTALEO, each citizens of Italy, residing at the following addresses respectively: Via XXV Aprile 17, 40037 Sasso Marconi (Bologna), Italy; Piazza Bonazzi 7, 40133 Bologna, Italy; Via Emilia Parmense 84, 29100 Piacenza, Italy; Via Erbosa 36/3, 40129 Bologna, Italy; and Via Monterumici 20, 40133 Bologna, Italy have invented certain new and useful improvements in

BIFIDOBACTERIA AND PREPARATIONS CONTAINING THEM of which the following is a specification.

Please delete the second paragraph, page 1 of the application, lines 8 to 16, entitled "Abstract of the Invention" and insert as page 14 of the application as a separate page attached hereto entitled "Abstract of the Disclosure".